

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES: GROUP B REPORT

REF: GENEVA 9356

NON-BINDING GROUP B REPORT COMPRISING OBJECTIVES AND
TECHNIQUES FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY POLICY WAS
TABLED IN CONTACT GROUP DECEMBER 18.

BEGIN TEXT

INITIAL WORKING PAPER OF GROUP B IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION
15 (VIII)

THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES, WITH A VIEW TO FINDING SUITABLE
SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF WORLD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION
OF AND TRADE IN COMMODITIES, INCLUDING THE IMPROVEMENT OF MARKET
STRUCTURES IN THE FIELD OF RAW MATERIALS AND COMMODITIES OF
EXPORT INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO
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THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXPORT EARNINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND

MINDFUL OF THE NEED TO ACHIEVE STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INCREASED SOCIAL WELFARE, INVITES THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS WITH A VIEW TO PRESENTING APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FOURTH CONFERENCE.

I. OBJECTIVES

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF COMMODITIES, INCLUDING WHERE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES SHOULD, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES, HAVE INTER ALIA THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

1. TO STRIVE TOWARDS MORE STABLE CONDITIONS IN COMMODITY TRADE AT PRICE LEVELS WHICH, IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, ARE EQUITABLE, RENUMERATIVE, AND CONSISTENT WITH LONG-TERM EQUILIBRIUM AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION.
2. TO AVOID EXCESSIVE FLUCTUATIONS IN COMMODITY PRICES.
3. TO INCREASE STABILITY IN THE EXPORT EARNINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH EXPORT PRIMARY PRODUCTS.
4. QUESTIONS RELATED TO ACCESS TO MARKETS AND RELIABILITY OF SUPPLY#

(# TO BE CONSIDERED FURTHER BY GROUP B)

5. TO ENCOURAGE ADEQUATE INVESTMENT IN COMMODITY PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN A MANNER WHICH IS CONDUCTIVE TO DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANDING TRADE, IS CONSISTENT WITH THE EXPECTED EVOLUTION OF WORLD DEMAND, AND PROVIDES AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY.
6. TO PROMOTE PROCESSING OF COMMODITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND DIVERSIFICATION OF THEIR PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY.
7. TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS IN PARTICULAR FOR COMMODITIES EXPORTED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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8. TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE POOREST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
9. TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SPECIAL SITUATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NET IMPORTERS OF COMMODITIES AND RAW MATERIALS, INCLUDING THOSE LACKING IN NATURAL RESOURCES.

10. TO ENCOURAGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON THE PROBLEMS
OF NATURAL PRODUCTS COMPETING WITH SYNTHETICS AND SUBSTITUTES.

II. TECHNIQUES

WHEN CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION IS AGREED BY PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES TO BE REQUIRED IN THE COMMODITY FIELD IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A BROADLY-BASED APPROACH TO COMMODITY PROBLEMS, INCLUDING ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS OF SPECIFIC COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS, CONSIDERATION MAY BE GIVEN INTER ALIA TO THE FOLLOWING RANGE OF TECHNIQUES TO BE EVALUATED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CHARACTERISTICS AND PROBLEMS OF EACH COMMODITY AND THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FOR USE SINGLY OR IN COMBINATION:

1. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE MARKET TRANSPARENCY.

2. STOCKING ARRANGEMENTS, NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL, INCLUDING BUFFER STOCKS AND THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED.

3. EXPORT QUOTAS.

4. PRICING ARRANGEMENTS.

5. SYSTEMS OF EXPORT EARNINGS STABILISATION.

6. LONG-TERM CONTRACTS, BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL.

7. MEASURES RELATED TO ACCESS TO MARKETS AND RELIABILITY OF SUPPLIES#.

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8. TRADE PROMOTION.

9. ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROCESSING AND DIVERSIFICATION.

10. PROMOTION OF INVESTMENT IN COMMODITY PRODUCTION.

END TEXT. DALE

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